APG NEWS



www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

January 31, 2013 Vol. 57, No. 5

More ground combat jobs open to women after SECDEF repeals rule



Women today are serving in harm's way and have been for the last decade. Now the Army will be expanding the opportunities for women to serve in more combat-related military occupational specialties. Here, Sgt. Stephanie Tremmel, with the 86th Special Troops Battalion, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, interacts with an Afghan child while visiting the village of Durani.

By **DAVID VERGUN**

Army News Service

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey signed a memo Jan. 24, paving the way for more women to serve in direct combat roles and in more military occupational specialties that are now open only to

The memo rescinds the 1994 DOD "Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule," which states in part: "Service members are eligible to be assigned to all positions for which they are qualified, except that women shall be excluded from assignment to units below the brigade level whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground."

The memo does not spell out which military occupational specialties, known as MOSs, will be open to women. Rather, it directs the services to provide their implementation strategies to the DOD by May 2013. Implementation

See ARMY, page 10

HIRED! program seeking mentors

Story by RACHEL PONDER APG News

The Child, Youth and School Services HIRED! program is getting ready for another busy summer season, with more than 45 students expected to enroll in the

Aberdeen Proving Ground employees can make a difference by volunteering to become a mentor to one or more of these teens.

The HIRED! program offers 15-18 year old students, whose families work on APG as military or civilians, the opportunity to gain real-world career experience and get paid a stipend.

The program allows teens to learn about a variety of career fields, broadens their resumes and gives them a competitive edge before graduating high school. During the summer, apprentices work eight hour shifts, two days a week, assisting with duties that are appropriate for their

See HIRED, page 10

Wellness center now open at Kirk

Free services available to all APG community

Story by **RACHEL PONDER** APG News

APG senior leaders and community members celebrated the grand opening of the APG Army Wellness Center (AWC) located inside Kirk U.S. Army Health Center, with a ribbon cutting Jan. 24.

AWC's are prevention-focused programs that aim to build and sustain good health. Its free standardized health services are offered to soldiers, retirees, family members, army civilians and contractors (space avail-

See WELLNESS, page 10



Maj. Gen. N. Lee S. Price, commanding general PEO C3T, congratulates Sqt. 1st Class Sergei Volodin on his induction into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club following a ceremony Jan. 25.

ATEC NCO inducted into prestigious club

By ROBIN BOGGS

ATEC Public Affairs The U.S. Army Test and

Evaluation Command inducted Sgt. 1st Class Sergei Volodin into the elite Sergeant Audie Murphy Club at ATEC headquarters Jan. 25.

The Sergeant Audie Mur-

enlisted organization comprised of noncommissioned officers who have demonstrated innate leadership traits and capabilities characterized by those of Sgt. Audie Murphy.

Sgt. Audie Leon Murphy is an American hero who made

phy Club is a prestigious history by consistently demonstrating the highest standards of leadership through his professionalism and regard for the welfare of his Soldiers. Murphy is one of the most highly decorated Soldiers in

See PRICE, page 10

WEATHER



46° | 31°

INDEX

Pg 2 Street Talk Pg 6 Mark Your Calendar Pg 7 At your service



ICE system nttp://ice.disa.mil/ Facebook, http:// on.fb.me/HzQlow

MORE INSIDE

Opening combat positions for women essential to diversity. PAGE 2

> Spouse believes little things key PAGE 2



Intramural Basketball: Wolf Gang slips past CERDEC, 44-32

page 7



APG Snapshot: Get a glimpse of what's going on around post

page 13

ONLINE

www.apg.army.mil apgnews.apg. apg.armylive. dŏdlive.mil/ facebook.com/ APGMd

twitter.com/ USAGAPG flickr.com/photos/ usagapg/









What is your favorite stress reliever during the workday?

I go to the fitness center and work out on the ellipticals. I recommend any kind of exercise when you're stressing. It always makes me feel calmer.



Marissa Hector

I work out in the fitness center. I usually come in lunchtime; sometimes after work. I feel very relieved, more focused and more positive when I'm done.



Lynn Coles

I go to the gym, usually after lunch, and do a lot of stretching. I choose different muscle groups to work on. I think that in order to really



Jon Bass

be strong, you have to be mentally strong.

I come in every day and ride the spinning bikes. I also bench press and do other things but the bikes are the main reason I come



Mike Nair **ARL**

in. [Spinning] makes me feel relaxed and I miss it when I don't get to ride. I absolutely recommend it as a stress reliever.

OPINION

Opening combat positions for women essential to diversity

COMMENTARY BY DON BRANUM

Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's Jan. 24 announcement that he would lift restrictions on women in combat positions has stirred up quite a bit of discussion. Anyone who wants a stronger U.S. military should welcome the lifting of combat restrictions and what that change means for readiness and diversity within the armed forces.

It's important to note a couple of key facts: First, women have been involved in combat since well before the Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida attacks. Second, Panetta has made clear he does not expect the services to change the physical requirements for demanding jobs such as Air Force pararescue, Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets or other special operations programs.

One name comes immediately to my mind when I think of women who have seen combat: 1st Lt. Roslyn Schulte, a 2006 Air Force Academy graduate who was killed in action while deployed to Afghanistan in May 2009.

Less recent names of note take a bit more digging, but they're not hard to find:

- -- Retired Col. Martha McSally, a 1988 graduate who flew in support of Operations Southern Watch and Endur-
- -- Lt. Col. Nicole Malachowski, a 1996 graduate who flew in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring
- -- Lt. Col. Kim Campbell, a '97 graduate who took part in air operations over Baghdad, Iraq, in April 2003.

While the physical requirements for pilots differ from those for many special operations career fields, flying in combat carries the significant risk of being shot down and either killed or captured.

More importantly, the strategy of asymmetrical warfare popular with the Taliban and al-Qaida doesn't recognize "combat roles" or front lines. Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson and Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch were assigned to the Army Quartermaster Corps,

but that didn't stop Iraqi army forces from ambushing their convoy in March 2003. Johnson and Lynch were taken prisoner and later rescued, while Piestewa was killed.

Still, Panetta's decision isn't without controversy. On the Air Force's official website, "Brandon" from Miami writes, in part, "Men are naturally hardwired to protect women even if it is with our lives." Notwithstanding the fact that service members are trained to protect any of their fellow brothers or sisters in uniform, I've yet to see any scientific evidence to corroborate Brandon's assumption.

The decision could also help solve a long-term problem: the lack of diversity within the Pentagon's top ranks. According to a 2009 Defense Manpower Data Center statistics, fewer than 10 percent of general officers across the services are women, even though women made up 16 percent of the active-duty officer corps.

It took nearly 65 years from the day Esther Blake joined the Air Force until Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger (a 1980 Academy graduate) became the Air Force's first four-star general. A big stumbling block has traditionally been a lack of combat experience, but you can't get combat experience if you're not allowed to serve -- and lead -- in combat roles.

That wasn't fair to women, so Panetta fixed it.

As James Hill of Columbia, Tenn., wrote on the Air Force website, "As a 32-year veteran, all I have to say is, go for it. In my 79 years of life, I have learned that women can be tough as nails. I saw my son ... make a pararescueman, and I know his daughter is as tough as he is."

People are going to worry about unit cohesion anytime something happens to change a unit's composition. It was true for racial desegregation in 1948; it was true when Don't Ask, Don't Tell was repealed in 2011, and it's true now. People even get nervous about new unit commanders or permanent changes of station. It's easier to make up reasons for change-related anxiety than it is to admit you don't know what might happen. But if past experience is any indication, the armed forces will be just fine.

Spouse believes little things key

By LISA SMITH MOLINARI

The Meat and Potatoes of Life blog

As we milspouses board life's runaway train for another year of twists and turns and ups and downs, we can't help but wonder, "Will this ride be better than the last?" We make resolutions, set goals, and hope for the best, but so many factors are simply beyond our control. The economy, deployments, orders, our health, the future - how on earth are we supposed to ensure our happiness in the coming year?

After much analysis, I've formulated a hypothesis to address this fundamental question. My research indicates that there are three basic lifestyle choices that positively correlate with human contentment. In other words, I've discovered the keys to happiness.

* Wear comfortable underwear.

Ever had one of those days when your knickers keep inching up your derriere? The constant wedgie adds a subtle undertone of discomfort to your day, making you grumpy. When you're grumpy, you snap at your boss. When you snap at your boss, he fires you. When you get fired, you go broke. When you go broke, you are not happy. See how that works?

* Install a new shower head.

Does your shower head emit a wimpy trickle, making it difficult to lather, rinse and repeat? Do you dare to condition, only to find it impossible to rinse it all out? Do you spend the rest of the day feeling greasy and lacking self-confidence?

When you lack self-confidence, you can't decide what to cook for dinner. When you can't decide what to cook, you make frozen chicken nuggets. When you serve nuggets for the third time this week, your spouse gets annoyed. When your spouse gets annoyed, you argue. When you argue, he sleeps on the couch. When he sleeps on the couch, you are not happy.

So dash to your nearest hardware store, and find a shower head with a water output similar to that of a regulation fire hose. The therapeutic massaging action of the pelting water will blast away stress, tension, toxins, troubles, soap, conditioner . . . and sometimes the first layer of skin.

* Attain digestive regularity. Do your intestines occasionally go on strike?

Let's face it - if the "magic" doesn't happen, it can ruin your day. You feel full, heavy, lethargic, bloated. When you feel bloated, you are irritable. When you are irritable, you yell at other drivers when they cut you off. When you yell at other drivers, they stop to give you a piece of their mind. When they give you a piece of their mind, you swat them with your purse. When

you swat them with your purse, you get arrested. When you get arrested, you are not happy.

Eat leafy greens, guzzle copious amounts of coffee, get new reading material for the bathroom. Succeed in attaining digestive regularity, and you will face the challenges of this year with a cheerful spring in your step.

In all seriousness, I'm sure none of us will end up broke, on the outs with our spouses, or in jail. Nevertheless, if we want to be happier this year, we need to remember that it's the little things in life that matter the most.

Good morning, Sunshine! -Not only will 15 minutes of exposure to sunlight three times a week boost your body's supply of vitamin D, but sunshine can have a positive affect on people prone to depression and anxiety.

Get to bed. According to the National Sleep Foundation, adults need seven to nine hours of sleep. Lack of adequate sleep negatively affects physical and mental health, attention span, memory, learning and even body mass index.

The Dog Days aren't over - For the last 25 years, research has shown that living with pets lowers blood pressure and anxiety. And some new studies actually indicate that children who grow up in households with pets are LESS likely to have asthma and allergies. Who knew?

APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Thurs





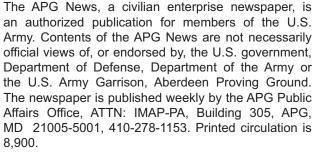






Wed

46° | 31°



Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising and mailing. To obtain a yearly subscription, which costs \$16, the price for weekly mailing, or for problems with incorrect mailing addresses, contact Customer Service at 139 N. Main Street, Suite 203, Bel Air, MD 21014, or call 410-838-0611.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 305, IMAP-PA, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-7274, DSN 298-7274; send a fax to 410-278-2570; send e-mail to patricia.g.beauchamp.civ@mail. mil or contact reporters Yvonne Johnson, yvonne.johnson5.ctr@mail.mil or 410-278-1148, or Rachel Ponder, rachel.e.ponder2.ctr@mail.mil or 410-278-1149.

Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

Staff

APG Commander Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell
APG Garrison Commander Col. Gregory R. McClinton
Public Affairs Officer Kelly Luster
Editor Adriane Foss
Contract Photojournalists Yvonne Johnson
Rachel Ponder
Graphic Designer/Web Designer Nick Pentz
Website www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

Legal, health officials agree on AC

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division

In January 2011, the Staff Judge Advocate General (SJA) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, TRICARE Management Activity (TRICARE) and the commander of Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, Fort George G. Meade, Md., entered into an agreement to establish how TRICARE will reimburse Kirk Army Health Clinic.

The reimbursement is for a portion of the costs associated with recovering TRICARE claims from tortfeasors (wrongful acts), insurers, and workman's compensation programs under the Army's Medical Affirmative Claims program.

The Army Medical Affirmative Claims program allows the Army to recover costs of medical care provided to Soldiers, retirees, and their Family members by MTFs and civilian hospitals. Reimbursement for this care from tortfeasors and their insurers is authorized under the Federal Medical Claims Recovery Act (FMCRA).

It is also permitted by 10 U.S.C. § 1095. The latter statute allows recovery against an injured party's insurer when medical care is provided or funded by the Army, even though that insurer is designated by law as the "primary payer."

The FMCRA authorizes recovery in states requiring tortious conduct as the proximate cause of injury, as well as in states that have a "no fault" system of insurance.

Title 10 U.S.C. § 1095 provides a remedy against the providers of the injured party's automobile insurance, workers' compensation, and common carrier coverage. Claims for medical care provided at MTFs frequently involve TRICARE, tortfeasors, and insurers.

To cut back resources, APG SJA agreed to assert TRICARE claims for medical expenses arising under the FMCRA as well as under 10 U.S.C. § 1095b5 for claims involving automobile insurance, workers' compensation, and common carrier coverage.

The memorandum of agreement is the most recent attempt to encourage the recovery of medical affirmative claims and facilitate cooperation between the Army legal community and the health providers (military and civilian) on whose behalf claims are asserted and collected.

Title 10 U.S.C. § 1095 has profoundly affected medical care recovery procedures. Money recovered under this statute must be credited to the appropriation supporting the operation and maintenance account of the facility that provided the care.

Funds recovered under this statute can be used to support the local hospital commander's mission. Before this, recovered finances were deposited in the various receipts fund of the General Treasury.

Once they were authorized to deposit recovered funds into their own accounts, many MTFs entered into agreements with claims field offices to subsidize supplementary personnel to support medical affirmative claims recovery efforts or fund the affirmative claims office to purchase additional supplies that would develop the efficiency of the affirmative claims office.

What is an Affirmative Claim?

An affirmative claim is a claim asserted by the United States against negligent third parties for damage to itary medical treatment facilities U.S. government property or injury to military personnel, Family members and retirees.

Types of Affirmative Claims Property damage claims:

(1) Claims in which the United States is seeking to recover its costs for repair or replacement of governmental property (e.g., GOV) that has been damaged or destroyed by third parties. Most of these claims arise from motor vehicle accidents, they are asserted directly against the insurance company of the person at fault

(2) Funds collected for damage to real property are returned to the installation responsible for maintaining that property.

Medical care claims:

for the accident.

(1) When the negligent or wrongful acts of a third party cause injuries to U.S. service members, Family members, and retirees, the United States may recover the reasonable value of medical care provided in U.S. mil(MTFs) or in civilian medical facilities at government expense. Almost all medical care recovery claims result from motor vehicle accidents. Medical care recovery claims are asserted directly against the insurance company of the person at fault.

(2) Funds recovered for medical care provided at MTFs are returned to the facility rendering the care.

(3) In addition to the cost of medical treatment, the U.S. can recover the cost of a Soldier's wages for the period of time that he is in the hospital or on convalescent leave. Money recovered for lost wages is returned to the installation or unit to which the Soldier is assigned.

What You Should Do

Contact the Claims Office at 410-278-1109 if you know of or become aware of situations in which third parties damaged U.S. government property or injured a U.S. Soldier. Family member, or retired member. This will permit the U.S. government to be reimbursed for its losses.

CMA saves taxpayers \$290M

CMA news release

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity recently realized a cumulative cost avoidance to taxpayers of more than \$290 million by achieving the end of closure operations early at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) located at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.

The savings were achieved by incentivizing the systems contractor, URS Corporation, to complete both the chemical agent destruction operations and facility closure operations ahead of contractual schedules while adhering to strict environmental and safety standards.

Demolition of structures at the PBCDF was completed Dec. 20, 2012, and the Army subsequently accepted URS Corporation's Facility Closure Certification Report -- the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) the facility destroyed 123,100 munipermit document that has been submitted to state regulatory authorities in order to close out the regulatory

Using contract incentives, CMA provided the URS Corporation an opportunity to earn monetary incentives by accelerating PBCDF operations and closure phases.

URS accelerated the PBCDF activities and trimmed nearly two and a half years off the project's lifecycle schedule, providing the Army a total cost avoidance of approximately \$457.5 million.

URS will be awarded \$165 million of incentives, leaving the Army with a net savings of approximately \$292.5 million.

Construction began on the PBCDF in January 1999 and was completed in November 2002. Chemical agent disposal operations began in March 2005, and in the ensuing five years tions containing approximately 7 million pounds of chemical agent.

The PBCDF completed chemical agent disposal operations in November 2010.

Once agent disposal operations were complete, the facility was decontaminated and dismantled in accordance with applicable permits and in close coordination with Pine Bluff Arsenal.

Twenty four buildings associated with the PBCDF were left standing and will be turned over to Pine Bluff Arsenal for reuse, representing additional savings to the Army. The land formerly occupied by the PBCDF remains the property of Pine Bluff

CMA will continue the process of closing the contract that supported the PBCDF. This contract close-out is expected to take approximately 18 months.

PHC web courses save money, satisfy demand

CHANEL S. WEAVER

U.S. Army Public Health Command

In an era of decreasing budgets and limited funds for travel, managers have struggled to find ways to ensure they keep a highly-trained and competent workforce.

Experts in the U.S. Army Public Health Command Occupational Health Sciences Portfolio are making it easier for Army workers to maintain credentials through use of an online training system called Blackboard Learn.

The system, employed at various institutions of higher learning across the U.S., is becoming a preferred training tool for many Army industrial hygiene and safety personnel. With this Web technology, subject-matter experts are able to deliver graduate-level training in 15 courses that are focused on core competencies in the Army safety and occupational health career program.

Courses include such topics as noise measurement and assessment; blueprint reading and design review; environmental and indoor air quality; fundamentals of ventilation; and ergonomics, just to name a few.

Each course is based upon competencies defined by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, and many provide enrollees with continuing education units required to maintain certification in their respective career fields.

Students can view lectures and upload homework and assignments in Blackboard Learn as well as print materials for study and reference.

"Students no longer receive a large

binder to carry home and place on a shelf," said Paula Steven, industrial hygiene training coordinator at the USAPHC.

"Blackboard Learn allows us to upload all materials, and attendees

simply print what they personally need."

Steven is responsible for building and maintaining the educational materials posted in Blackboard Learn and enrolling students into courses.

Our student population has increased from 400

or 500 individuals to

nearly 1,400 individuals

USAPHC

since Blackboard Learn.

Paula Steven

The online training system also provides benefits for the instructors, according to Steven.

"Blackboard Learn keeps track of transcripts, certificates and course survey statistics, making the completion of reports much simpler for the coordinator," said Steven.

Although the majority of instruction is provided online, some course offerings also include blended learning, which offers a portion of the course in the Web-based environment, while the other aspect of the course includes hands-on training as residency work.

Additionally, the requirements for taking a course are not complex.

"Some of our residency courses have priority seating, but all of our

online offerings are available to federal employees who have a 'dot-mil' email address, a DCO (Defense Connect Online) account, and a common access card," said Steven. "If an attendee is taking one of the cours-

es or modules for the first time, there is a simple registration process that takes place in the Army Blackboard Learn to create a profile in the system."

Enrollment in these courses continues to trend upward. opulation has

"Our student population has increased from around 400 or 500 individuals to nearly 1,400 individuals since we started offering courses and modules on the Blackboard Learn," said Steven.

Although most of the attendees who take the courses are Army industrial hygiene staff members or safety professionals, the students are becoming more diverse according to Steven.

"We have attendees enrolled in our courses from a wide variety of governmental agencies," said Steven. "We have a population of National Guard safety professionals and Army and National Guard occupational health nurses that regularly attend our offerings. We have even noticed attendees from our sister services, Department of Homeland Security, and Defense Logistics Agency."

The Blackboard Learn courses also provide a benefit for the Army by reducing the amount of time spent traveling for courses as well as ensuring an efficient training process.

"We used to offer a course that required two weeks of residency for 20 students," said Steven. "Now with having one week of the course online, we accommodate 80 students for one week of residency and still end up spending less money. We can accommodate many more students at a much lower price without having to sacrifice the hands-on training."

The success of the Blackboard Learn system has prompted USAPHC personnel to offer additional courses.

"Our subject-matter experts are currently working on implementing approximately 48 new online modules focusing on a variety of instruments, ventilation topics, and different industrial work environments," said Steven.

In the future, the Blackboard Learn system can be expanded to cover courses to support other training programs.

Steven said the online courses demonstrate "out of the box" thinking for Army personnel.

"Having instructors who are willing to step out of their comfort zone and try something new has helped make Blackboard Learn successful," said Steven.

For more information, visit Public Health Command at http://phc.amedd.army.mil/Pages/Training.aspx and Blackboard Learn at https://amedd.ellc.learn.army.mil

Workforce required to attend briefing before foreign travel

CECOM G2

The U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command's Intelligence and Security, G2, office reminds the workforce of the mandatory requirement to receive a foreign travel brief whenever traveling, officially or unofficially, to foreign countries.

The briefing provides information regarding travel requirements and threats associated with the country visited. The briefing is mandatory for any type of travel, including leave, conferences, and meetings, any place that could be of concern as it

relates to possible foreign intelligence exploitation, according to Jim Lint, director, Intelligence and Security/G2.

"The briefing won't take long, and it is for your security," he said.

Per AR 380-5, the Installation Management Command Security and Intelligence Division requires Army employees to receive country-specific briefings before any foreign travel outside of the United States.

Penalties for violating this regulation may include

formal counseling, loss of security clearance, and reassignment to other duties or termination of job.

Notify your security manager and schedule your foreign travel brief at least two weeks before you depart. If you have Sensitive Compartmented Information access, you must notify your special security office or (for contractors) contact your facility security officer. Each separate trip needs to be reported.

Call the IMCOM Security and Intelligence Division at 410-278-3187 at least two weeks in advance of planned travel.

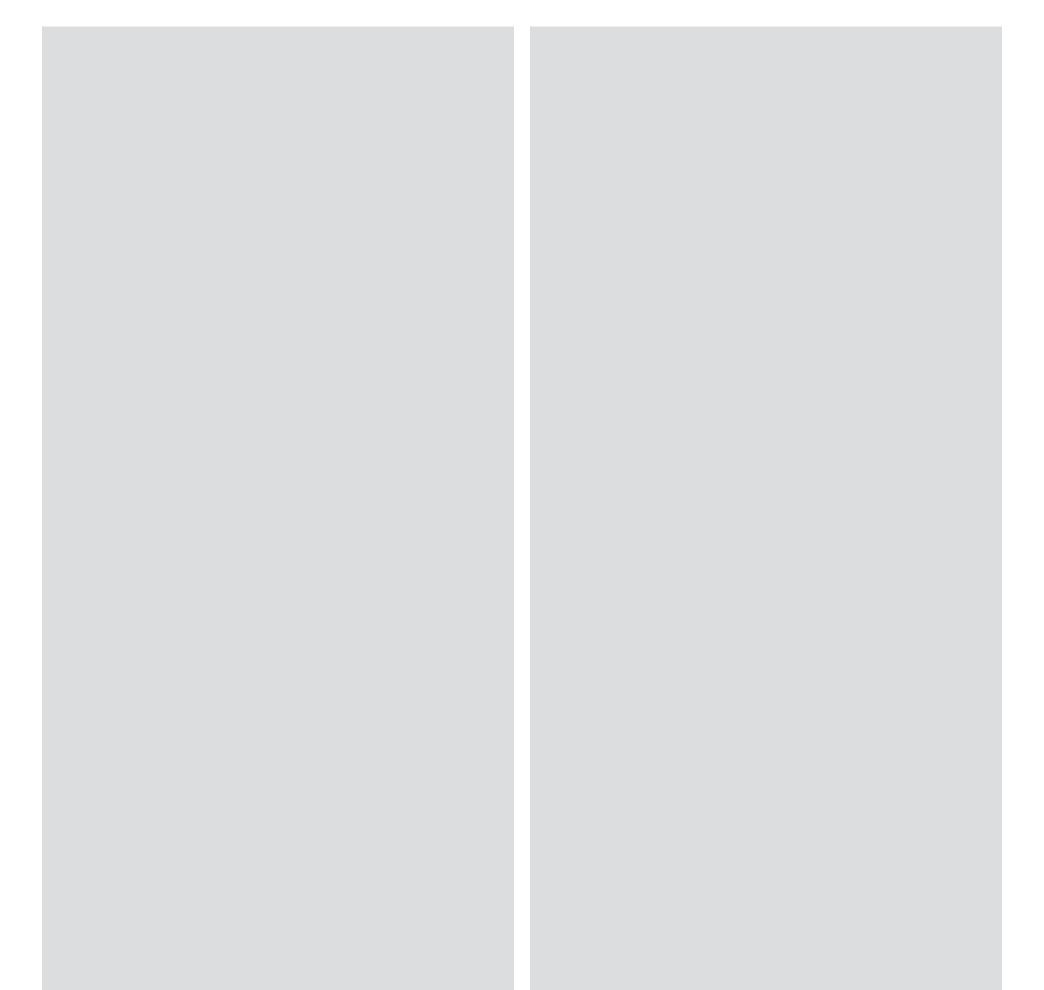






Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Kierra "KiKi" Sheard and the FIYA singers perform hand-raising, toe-tapping renditions during the 2013 United as One Tour at the post theater Jan. 27. The tour featured gospel greats James Fortune, VaShawn Mitchell and Zacardi Cortez. The audience sways to the sound of VaShawn Mitchell singing "Nobody Greater," Billboard's #1 Most Played Gospel Song of 2011.

Gospel hits featured at United concert

By YVONNE JOHNSON

APG News

The 2013 United as One Tour brought an electric evening of musical high praise and worship to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater Jan. 27.

James Fortune, a twice Grammynominated Gospel singer-songwriter and his backup singing group, FIYA, led the lineup of performers that included VaShawn Mitchell, Zacardi Cortez and Kierra "Kiki" Sheard. Comedian Shuckey Duckey, dressed in military garb, hosted the event.

The performers treated the audience to some of their greatest hits.

Mitchell energized the audience with his former #1 Gospel Billboard single "Nobody Greater."

Mitchell is a six-time Stellar Award winner and Grammy nominated artist. He also received two GMA Dove Award nominations for the single "Nobody Greater" and the album "Triumphant" which received 11 Stellar Award nominations.

Cortez soothed and pleased with the hit, "I Believe." The song held the #1 spot on Billboard's Hot Gospel Songs chart for 14 weeks. And Sheard, fired things up in the style of her mother, Karen, a member of the famous Clark Sisters, with songs from her latest CD, "Free."

Shuckey Duckey added humorous quips between acts, the show progressed smoothly. When he asked if folks were rooting for the Super Bowlbound Baltimore Ravens he received

a roar of approval from the audience. Audience members spent much of the time on their feet with arms uplifted or hands clapping while they sang or hummed along to nearly every song.

It was apparent that concert-goers njoyed and appreciated the event.

"I feel revived," said Monique Ferrell, wife of APG senior leader Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell. "It was all so beautiful and uplifting. It left me inspired to go out and make a difference."

Maryland Gold Star Mother Janice Chance who traveled from Owings Mills, Md., for the event agreed.

"It was refreshing to be here with so many people praising, on one accord," she said.

APG civilian Steve Lyons, pastor of the Bread of Life Church in Aberdeen called the concert, "an absolutely worshipful forum."

"These artists are God's gifts to the kingdom," he said.

Former HHC Garrison first sergeant and current PEO C3T civilian Lonzia Hawkins recalled past Wilbert Davis Gospel Night Concerts that were held at the theater and hosted by the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools before it departed to Fort Lee, Va.

"I long for those days and hopefully they will soon return," he said.

He also thanked Earlene Allen, MWR special programs manager, and the MWR staff for "bringing this high time in the Lord to the APG community."



The audience sways to the sound of VaShawn Mitchell singing "Nobody Greater," Billboard's #1 Most Played Gospel Song of 2011.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JAN. 31 NATURE STORY TIME

Eden Mill Nature Center is proud to offer Nature Story Time at 11 a.m. All are welcome who enjoy children's literature. Join us for a children's story and craft related to a theme about nature. To pre-register or for more info, call 410-836-3050 or email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.org.

FEB. 2 GROUNDHOG DAY

Listen to the tale of how ground-hogs got their own holiday, courtesy of the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. Make a craft showing off the ground-hog's fur and go outside for a shadow activity. This program will be held at 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 4 to 8 with adult. The cost is \$3 per child; online registration is required at www.otter-pointcreek.org.

For information or directions, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

A DAY FOR A GROUNDHOG

Listen to the tale of how ground-hogs got their own holiday. Make a craft showing off the groundhog's fur and go outside for a shadow activity. This program will be held at 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for ages 4 to 8 with adult. The cost is \$3 per child and online registration is required at www.otter-pointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

FEB. 3 ALL PINES ARE NOT ALIKE

Hike around the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center park to discover different varieties of pine trees. Learn how to make pine tea and about its medicinal value while warming up by the pellet stove. This program will be held at 2 to 3:30 p.m. for ages 6 to adult, 6 to 12 with adult. The cost is \$2; online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

TUESDAY

FEB. 5 SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

American Sign Language lunchtime basic and advanced classes run from Feb. 5 through April 30 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. E3330-31, Room 270 at APG South (Edgewood). Class is free and uses textbook "A B C, A Basic Course in American Sign Language."

For more information or to register, call BethAnn Cameron, 410-436-7175.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9 WHITE-TAILED DEER SURVEY

Harford County seems to be experiencing explosive population growth and not just with humans. Come help determine if the deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Come get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the park home. This program will be held 9 to 11 a.m. for ages 16 to adult. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

ST. BARBARA BALL

The annual St Barbara's Day Ball is set at Aberdeen Proving Ground Saturday, Feb. 9 at Top of the Bay from 6-12 p.m. This ceremonial dinner and dance program recognizes achievements of the Army field artillery community. St Barbara is the patron saint of artillery. Once a longstanding tradition at Fort Monmouth, N.J., the event has now moved to APG. To register, visit http://ausa-aberdeen.org/New-sevents/events.html or call 410-272-2585

APPRECIATE THE BIRDS

Celebrate National Bird Feeding Month by learning about some of the wintering birds near the Estuary Center and by making a bird feeder. This program will be held at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for ages 5 to 12. The cost is \$4 and online registration is required at

www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

IFYOU FEED THEM, THEY WILL COME

While the kids learn to "Appreciate the Birds", parents are invited to join Phil Powers to learn what birds frequent backyards in Harford County and their feeder and food preferences. This program will be held at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for ages 13 to adult. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

WILDLIFE ILLUSTRATION

Ever wanted to try wildlife illustration like in nature guides? Participants will cover all the basics needed to get started on the way to being the next RogerTory Peterson. This program will be held at 2 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult. The cost is \$5 and online registration is required at www.otterpoint-creek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

FEB. 10 HANDMADE PAPER VALENTINE

Learn how to recycle paper and other fibers to create unique hand-made paper for crafting a special valentine. This program will be held at 1 to 2:30 p.m. for all ages, under 12 with adult. The cost is \$5 and online registration is required at www.otterpoint-creek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688

BACKYARD CONSERVATION - BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

Rain barrels are a cheap and easy way to conserve water and reduce runoff. This workshop will help build a rain barrel and learn about the many benefits they provide. Be sure to bring a vehicle large enough to transport the rain barrel home. This program will be held at 3 to 5 pm for adults. The cost is \$30 per barrel and online registration is required at www.otter-pointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

TUESDAY

FEB. 12 HARFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Experience the joy of starting your favorite vegetable plants from seed using an indoor lighting system in your own home. Gain the essential knowledge needed to properly harden off seedlings for transferring them into your garden. The class is 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Registration is required. Cost is \$5 per participant.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

FEB. 15 & 16 AN INTRODUCTION TO WINTER BIRD PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

This course will provide a brief introduction to the world of winter birds and how they cope with changes in habitat and food choices. It will begin Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a discussion of avian physiology, systematics, and ecology as it relates to many common winter birds. On Saturday the course will continue from 9 to 11 a.m. and will involve a closer look at feeder birds while observing them from the feeders and mark and release them following an assessment of health. Participants will get a closer look at birds and obtain a greater appreciation of their unique adaptations including a background on how species develop and diversify. This program is for ages 12 to adult and the cost is \$20. Online registration is required at www.otter-

pointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext.

SATURDAY FEB. 16 INVASINATORS

Become part of the volunteer team of invasive plant removers and native plant restorers. This winter focus on mapping, ground truthing, and monitoring invasive plants to formulate an invasives action plan. Dress for the weather and be prepared to be working at both Leight Park and the Bosely Conservancy. This program will be held 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for ages 14 to adult. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

GRASSES TO THE MASSES WORKSHOP

Learn what submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is, why it is important to the Bay, and how to help restore bay grasses. In this free workshop for volunteers, participants will receive instruction, equipment, and plant material to grow SAV in the home. Then come back this spring to plant the SAV in Otter Point Creek. No experience is necessary. This workshop will be held at 12:30 to 2 p.m. for ages 6 to adult, 6 to 15 with adult. The program is free but online registration is required at www.otterpoint-creek org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

FEB. 17 MEET A CRITTER

Check out one of the Center's live critters up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This program will be held at 2 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

FEB. 23 COLD COMPASS CAPERS

Learn how to use a compass while negotiating a scavenger hunt inside and outside of the Center. Warm treats will be the reward. This program will be held at 2 to 3:30 p.m. for all ages, under 12 with adult. The cost is \$5 per person or \$18 per Family and online registration is required at www.otter-pointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

CRITTER DINNERTIME

Come watch the turtles, fish and snakes eat while learning more about these fascinating creatures. This program will be held at 10:30 a.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

SUNDAY

FEB. 24 KID'S KEMISTRY

In celebration of Chemistry Month, come discover the fun side of chemistry using ordinary household items and cooking ingredients. This program will be held at 12:30 to 2 p.m. for ages 6 to 10. The cost is \$4 and online registration is required at www.otterpointcreek.org.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

NATURE TALES - SQUIRRELS

Story time with a nature twist. Come listen to stories, learn new songs and move like the animals. This program will be held at 3:30 p.m. and is free for all ages. No registration required.

For information or directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

MONDAY

MARCH 4 JOB STORE OPEN FOR VETS MARCH 4 AT PX

Visit the Hero2Hired Mobile Job

Store at the APG PX parking lot Monday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hero2Hired (H2H) is a Yellow Ribbon-funded program that connects job seeking veterans and Family members with meaningful employment. H2H contains everything you need to find a job, including job listings, career exploration tools, education and training resources, live and virtual hiring fairs, a mobile app, an innovative Facebook application, and a variety of networking opportunities.

The H2H Mobile Job Store is an extension of the H2H program. It has four computer stations that connect to the H2H.jobs website as well as a multimedia system and a lounge area where the MJS staff will be available to answer questions and assist with signing up on the H2H.jobs site.

Check out facebook.com/H2H.Jobs or twitter.com/H2H.Jobs.

ONGOINGDEATH NOTICE

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of 1 Lt. Daniel C. Johnson must contact Capt. Thomas H. Chong, the summary court officer for the Soldier. Johnson passed away at Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace, Md., Jan. 4.

Call Chong at 240-731-0206 or email thomas.h.chong@us.army.mil.

WEDNESDAYS THRU FEB. 6

TOBACCO CESSATION:

Start the New Year with a healthy resolution. Lean how to quit tobacco and stay quit during sessions from noon to 1 p.m. at the APG-North Recreation Center, Room 102. Each week a different topic will be discussed, including: tobacco cessation strategies and medication support options, life-style change management, diet and nutrition, stress management and staying quit. Free to APG employees: DoD, contractors, active duty, Family members, and retirees. Contact Ann Laughton at ann.laughton@us.army. mil or 410-278-1774 for info.

SATURDAYS CRITTER FEEDINGS

Eden Mill Nature Center will be offering feedings on Saturdays through March at 3 p.m. Open to all ages. Join us in the nature center as we feed our critters. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or a snake. Space is limited to 10 participants so pre-register early by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit www.edenmill. org for information.

WEEKDAYS

THRU - MARCH 31 WINTER HOURS SET FOR EQUIPMENT RESOURCE CENTER

Open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Bldg. 2184, 410-278-4124.

MONDAYS APG THEATER GROUP

The APG Theater Group meets Mondays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the APG North recreation center. If you're an actor, singer, dancer, comedian, musician, or interested in becoming part of the stage crew, come out and join in the fun. To sign up, call 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

THURSDAYS SOCIAL HOUR

Socialize, network or just unwind with fellow Soldiers, coworkers, friends and Family while enjoying good food, music and camaraderie during Thursday Socials, 4 to 7 p.m., in the Top of the Bay Gunpowder Lounge.

Thursday Socials include complimentary light refreshments and a cash bar with additional fare for sale.

For more information, contact Teri Hall at 410-278-3062.

OPEN MIC AND KARAOKE

Open Mic & Karaoke Night is slated monthly on Thursdays at Ruggles Golf Course from 6 - 9 p.m. as follows: Feb. 21, and March 21.

Kick off the New Year doing what you love.



Wolf Gang slips past CERDEC, 44-32

Story and photo by **YVONNE JOHNSON**

APG News

Intramural basketball is still in the early stages but some teams are already claiming their spot at the top of the standings.

Team Wolf Gang remained undefeated five games into the season after escaping a late rally from CER-DEC to win 44-32 at the APG North Athletic Center Jan. 28.

Led by player-coach Jay Graham, Wolf Gang, a squad of mostly CECOM civilians, held a close lead most of the game before pulling away in the final three minutes to seal the win. Graham said the team, which was eliminated prior to the semifinals last season, plans to do more this year.

"We're working better together and we're an overall better team," he said.

Wolf Gang wrestled its way to a 23-20 lead at the break after both teams went into a shooting slump

that left them tied 20-20 for more than three minutes. Both team's defense was working, Graham said, adding that he told his players to keep it up in the second half.

"We've got to put defense on them and hustle.'

On the other side of the court, CERDEC played without a head coach but that was no problem according to player-spokesperson Bill Pettus who said they put the team together late.

With two wins and three losses, that's good enough to be competitive, he said.

"Everyone's good natured and in good spirits. We know you can't expect to win every time until you get serious about it."

He added that though the defense played well in the first half, players would have to pass more in the second half to get the win.

After the break Wolf Gang poured it on, pulling away to a 10-point lead, 36-26, with just over seven minutes to play. CERDEC knuckled down at that point, stepping up its defense while its shooters went to work, nearly evening the score at 36-32 with 2:45left in the game. That was all the scoring on the CERDEC side of the ball, however as Wolf Gang stifled the rally and soared to a commanding 44-32 finish.

Pettus said the team had something to build on after a strong outing against a tough opponent.

"We had a lot of fun against the team that may be the best in the league," he said.

Graham said the team "dug a little deeper," in the second half."

"We knew it was ours to lose. This team is coming together and doing what we have to do to get the win."

While going after a loose ball, Wolf Gang's Phil Payne (center) is sandwiched between Patrick Charles (left) and Terrence Gray of CERDEC during a Jan. 28 game at the APG North athletic center.







Barry Councill APG North AbilityOne Base Supply store manager

Meet Barry Councill, store manager of the AbilityOne Base Supply Center at APG North (Aberdeen). Councill is responsible for overseeing store operations and managing employees.

AbilityOne BCS, formerly known as Office Eagle, carries a wide range of office supplies, hardware items and cleaning supplies. The store employs eight part-time employees who are handicapped or disabled.

Councill said he especially gets "great enjoyment out of training [disabled] associates so they can lead a better life. They show such a look of satisfaction and pride every time they accomplish a mission for the store. They are the reason we are here."

He also enjoys getting to knowing regular customers.

Councill is located at the APG North AbilityOne BSC store at 320 Johnson Street, Bldg. 320, next to the APG North fitness center. Hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Councill at 410-297-4950, e-mail bcouncill@bism.org, or visit www.supereaglysupply.com.



Photo by Yvonne Johnson

HIRED! looking for tech sites

Continued from Page 1

age and skill level.

Typically, teens in the HIRED! program are placed in FMWR facilities, like the post bowling center, or child development centers. But HIRED! coordinator Jay McKinney said his goal is to expand the number of placement sites, and place apprentices with organizations that reflect their career interests.

"APG offers a wide range of science, technology, and medical careers, these apprenticeships would provide invaluable experience for teenagers," he said. "This is an opportunity for APG organizations to invest in our children's futures."

Last summer McKinney successfully placed teens at the APG Museum, U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center, the Multimedia/ Visual Information Services Center and Directorate of Public Works.

"And I received positive feedback from their mentors," he said.

For example, two teens assisted acting Museum Director Ed Heasley with cataloging artifacts that will be displayed in the APG Museum, opening to the public later this year.

On-site mentor Gloria Radkiewic

of USASNEC helped Ben Xu and Eric Chau secure a temporary Common Access Card to gain access to the network.

"If you have an opportunity to make a difference, you have to seize it," Radkiewicz said in a 2012 interview. "It might help them in the future. Also, I really like people and teens, so I really wanted to help."

"They were the first teens in the APG HIRED! program to secure a temporary CAC card," McKinney said. "Hopefully now that we have gone through this process, we will be able to offer more non-MWR placements to teens."

McKinney said teens go through several interviews and prerequisite training to determine which placement sites are the best fit.

"Before assigning an apprentice to any non-FMWR site, they must have some knowledge of the career field,' he explained.

McKinney said organizations that would like to accept apprentices must designate a mentor, who will be required to undergo one hour of training, completed at the worksite.

To find out how to become a mentor, email jay.a.mckinney.naf@mail. mil or call 410-278-3250.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

(From left) Gloria Radkiewicz, an onsite mentor and information technology specialist from the U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center, advises HIRED! Students Ben Xu, 15, and Eric Chau, 17, both of whom worked at USASNEC last summer. The HIRED! program helps 15- to 18-year-old students gain real-world career experience and earn a small stipend. More than 45 teens are expected to enroll this summer.

Army opens combat jobs to women

Continued from Page 1

will begin this year and be completed by 2015, Panetta added.

The reason some MOSs in the past were closed was "due to permissible restrictions such as co-location, direct ground combat, privacy and berthing, special operations or long-range reconnaissance," according to the February 2012 DOD "Report to Congress on the Review of Laws, Policies and Regulations Restricting the Service of Female Members in the U.S. Armed Forces."

"This year we will begin to assign women to previously closed occupations using clear standards of performance in all occupational specialties,' Dempsey said.

"The burden of proof used to be 'why should a woman serve in a particular specialty?" he added. "Now, it's 'why shouldn't a woman serve in a particular specialty?"

438 MOSs were open to women of all ranks, according to an Oct. 31 Army report "Women in the Army."

"Soldiers, both men and women, want fair and meaningful standards" to be developed for accepting women into previously restricted MOSs, said Gen. Robert W. Cone, commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, at a Pentagon media roundtable following the DOD press conference.

"I think that fairness is very important in a values-based organization like our Army," Cone said.

TRADOC has already been studying armies in other countries where women have successfully been integrated into combat MOSs, countries like Canada and Israel.

The Army will be "looking at knowledge, skills and attributes of Soldiers and get the best match in specialties (now restricted) like infantry, armor, field artillery and engithe important attributes is physical requirements. "Soldiers don't want to see (that) degraded."

Objective assessments and validation studies, many of which have already been completed, will look at each requirement by MOS, he said. Tasks include things like "how much does an infantryman have to lift, how much stuff do they have to carry and for what distance."

Once the validations are done, scientists will then develop MOS-specific physical fitness tests, Cone continued. Then those tests will in turn be validated with field studies.

Besides physical ability, the Army will look at "traditional impediments," meaning the attitudes regarding the acceptance of women into previously male-only MOSs, he said. "A lot of this is about leadership and the organizational climate."

The Army will take "proactive mea-As of September, 418 of the Army's neers," Cone said, adding that one of sures to mitigate resistance to women show that valor knows no gender."

going into these specialties," Cone concluded. "We want the right environment for women."

The commander in chief approved the actions of Panetta and Dempsey today, as well as the work that the Army is taking to open up MOSs for

President Obama released a statement that reads in part: "By moving to open more military positions, including ground combat units, to women, our armed forces have taken another historic step toward harnessing the talents and skills of all our citizens.

"This milestone reflects the courageous and patriotic service of women through more than two centuries of American history and the indispensable role of women in today's military.

"Many have made the ultimate sacrifice, including more than 150 women who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, patriots whose sacrifices

Wellness programs tailored to motivation

Continued from Page 1

able basis).

Programs offered at the center include: health and physical fitness assessments, metabolic testing, nutrition counseling, weight loss management, stress reduction techniques and tobacco education.

APG's AWC Director Chris Sorrells said programs are individualized to meet patients' needs, motivation and confidence levels.

For example, the Health Assessment Review includes American College of Sports Medicine risk stratification; a physical activity readiness questionnaire; a perceived stress scale score and biometric screening.

From private sources, this testing would cost about \$3,000.

Based on the results of the testings, AWC staff members create short-term and long-term health goals for clients, and receive custom meal and exercise plans.

For eligible medical system beneficiaries seeing an Army provider, the AWC staff also will document visit results in their medical record.

"The center provides us with the tools and the motivation to help us reach a healthy lifestyle," said KUSAHC Commander Lt. Col. Ellen S. Daly, during the ceremony. "What I find most exciting is that the services are open to the entire community."

U.S. Army Public Health Commander Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan said that AWCs will contribute to a more resilient and productive workforce.

She said that with the AWC, the Army will be a leader for a nation struggling with a crippling obesity epidemic, by focusing on prevention rather than disease.

There are many great young Americans that would like to join our military but are physically

unable to because of their obesity," Keenan said. "I really think the Army has an opportunity to be a leader for the nation, by demonstrating how to move from a healthcare system to a system of health."

After the ribbon cutting ceremony guided tours of the facility were offered.

The AWC Program is an U.S. Army Medical Command Program overseen by the U.S. Army Public Health Command.

There is currently an Office of the Surgeon General initiative underway to develop 38 Army Wellness Centers worldwide.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 410-306-1024.

Core programs offered at AWCs

The AWC approach to service is ual's resting metabolic rate to provided holistic. AWC staff take into account all of an individual's physical, psychological and social circumstances when providing services. A holistic approach is important because a person's health cannot be full addressed unless the whole person is considered.

Health assessment review: An analysis of a person's health, risk for disease and ability to increase physical

Physical fitness: Using state-of-theart equipment, physical fitness Level I assessed and used to create an individualized exercise program.

Healthy nutrition: Use of metabolic testing that synchronizes an individtailored strategies for weight loss, gain or maintenance.

Stress management: Education in biofeedback and stress relief techniques, positive coping skills and good sleep habits.

General wellness education: Classes on topics such as healthy lifestyles, increased resiliency, preventing chronic disease through healthy living habits,

Tobacco education: An assessment of an individual's readiness to change, a discussion of possible options for becoming tobacco free, and provision of the appropriate tobacco cessation education.

Price unanimously recommended

Continued from Page 1

American history earning every medal for valor that America gives.

Volodin, ATEC G3 operations NCO, was selected after undergoing a rigorous selection process which started with him being recommended by his chain of command and culminated in his appearance before a panel of senior NCOs who asked tough questions to test candidates' knowledge and expertise as an NCO. He was unanimously recommended to receive the SAMC award.

Induction into the SAMC is a privilege awarded to exceptional Army NCOs who have set the standard for excellence in leadership. These members have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and to the Army's combat readiness. Members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers and a concern for their families.

"Sergeant First Class Volodin demonstrates the character, skills, knowledge and attributes that embody what we expect our senior NCOs to be," said Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzching, ATEC's command sergeant major. "He is an excellent leader, role model and competent noncommis-

According to Fritzching, Volodin's exceptional military bearing, physical fitness, technical and tactical competence, demonstrated leadership skills and his vast knowledge of military subjects are what made him stand out from the rest of his peers.

Volodin, a Soldier of few words who finds it difficult to talk about himself, considers the recognition to be more than just an award but instead a constant reminder of what the standard

"Membership and the ideology of the club will be the rudder with which I will steer my decisions when pertaining to leadership, taking care of Soldiers and professionalism," he said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Carlton Handy, command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Evaluation Center, was the guest speaker at the induction ceremony. Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, ATEC's commanding general, presented Volodin with the award. Dellarocco also presented Volodin with the Army Commendation Medal in recognition of his selection to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

ATEC plans to utilize Volodin's leadership development and mentoring skills by assigning him to a position of increased responsibility where he can be of greater service to the Army, its Soldiers and their families.

APG SNAPSHOT

A peek at the events making news in and around U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground. For complete photo coverage, visit http://www.flickr.com/photos/usagapg/.



LEARN HOW TO SKI

Photo by Rachel Ponder

(From left) Melanie Tatam and Jenn Smith watch as MWR Outdoor recreation employee Ralph Coumo demonstrates how to move in skis. The free class, held at Outdoor Rec Bldg. 2184 teaches students proper skiing techniques and more. Classes will be held Feb. 21 and March 7. To register, email usarmy.APG.imcomfmwrc.list.usag-mwr-outdoorrec@mail.mil or call 410-278-5789.



Photo by Rachel Ponder

WELCOME TO APG!

Brianna Johnson, 7, and Staff Sgt. Kiyah Stokes of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE) meet community nurse Ann Laughton of Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic during the newcomer's orientation at the APG North recreation center Jan. 23. The next orientation will be held at the same location, April 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. A variety of organizations, on and off post, attend the event to provide information to new employees. For information, call Relocation Readiness at 410-278-2464/7572.



SNOW DAY

Courtesy photo

(From left) Sisters Sara and Grace Forcey pose for the camera during the 2013 Winter Retreat Jan. 11-13, hosted by the main post chapel's Youth Apostles for Christ group. This year's retreat took place once again at a local inn in Etters, Penn., where 25 chaperones and students participated in skiing and snowboarding at Roundtop Mountain, a ropes course, and group building games and discussions. But the most important objective of the weekend was for participants to grow in their spiritual relationships through devotions and small group activity, said youth leader Ben Sepulveda. The theme for the retreat was accountability, and each youth and chaperone was assigned an "Accountabilibuddy." For more information on the youth group or main post chapel services, call 410-278-4333.



Photo by Casi Tomarchio

TOWN HALL

Celestine Beckett, leader and workforce development manager with APG's Directorate of Human Resources, was the narrator for the quarterly installation town hall Jan. 24 at the post theater. Senior leaders addressed the audience on personnel and budget issues. View the town hall WAPG Comcast Channel 97 at 9 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. daily through Feb. 15.



Courtesy photo

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic's Sgt. Olayiwola Kugblenu volunteers at Martha's Kitchen in the Grove Presbyterian Church earlier this month.